Expansion of facilities at HMI

1667. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal for expansion of facilities at Himalayan Mountaineering Institute (HMI) situated at Darjeeling;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of trainees in HMI at present; and

(d) whether locals are also being provided with training facilities?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, some of the important proposals for expansion of facilities in the Institute are: Improvement in Living & Training Infrastructure; Rationalisation of Training Equipments and Expansion of the existing Hostel.

(c) The number of trainees in HMI at present are 100.

(d) Yes sir, locals are given training in Sport Climbing and weightage in admission to the courses in the Institute.

Exports by defence PSEs

1668. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has been encouraging the defence Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) for exports;

(b) whether is also a fact that the export performance of the country's shipyards has been unsatisfactory; and

(c) if so, the reasons for such indifferent performance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c): Defence Shipyards are utilizing their capacities currently for orders placed on them by Indian Navy & Coast Guard. This leaves them with little spare capacity. Despite this Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) has recently won an export order of Rs. 340 crores for commercial vessels.

Indo-Russian agreement of defence aviation

1669. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia have recently signed an agreement of cooperation and commerce in the sphere of defence aviation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Governments of India and Russia have signed an Inter-Governmental Agreement for Joint Development, Certification, Serial Production & sale of Multi-Role Transport Aircraft with a capacity of 15—20 tons and its variants and upgradation on 12th November, 2007 in Moscow.